

Message Text

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TAGS: TSPA XT TGEN

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

SUMMARY: MAIN ISSUES FACING MINISTERS AT EUROPEAN SPACE
CONFERENCE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 15 WERE TEXT OF ESA
CONVENTION, SELECTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL AND TOP MANAGE-
MENT PERSONNEL FOR NEW AGENCY, AND FUNDING FOR THE RANGE
AT KOUROU, FRENCH GUIANA. ALL ISSUES WERE RESOLVED AND
NEW AGENCY WILL COME INTO OPERATION AT THE END OF MAY.

1. MINISTERS AGREED ON TEXT OF NEW CONVENTION. THIS IS
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NOW BEING TRANSLATED AND CHECKED FOR PROPER LEGAL LAN-

GUAGE. IT WILL BE OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AT A MEETING OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES AT THE END OF MAY. IN THE INTERIM, AGENCY WILL BE CALLED ESRO/ESA UNTIL IT BECOMES ESA THE DAY THE CONVENTION IS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE. HEADQUARTERS OF AGENCY WILL REMAIN IN THE PARIS AREA.

2. FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE THE ESRO COUNCIL LAST WEEK FORMALLY APPOINTED: MR. ROY GIBSON (UNITED KINGDOM) TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL; MR. ANDRE LEBEAU (FRANCE), DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND FUTURE PROGRAMMES; DR. ERNST TRENDELENBURG (GERMANY), DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC AND METEOROLOGICAL PROGRAMMES; AND MR. GEORGE VAN REETH (BELGIUM), DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION. WITH COUNCIL AGREEMENT, MR. GIBSON HAS APPOINTED MR. LEBEAU AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL TO REPLACE HIM IN HIS ABSENCE, IN ADDITION TO BEING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND FUTURE PROGRAMMES. WHEN THE NEW AGENCY COMES INTO OPERATION, ITS DIRECTORATE WILL BE COMPOSED OF THE ABOVE FOUR PEOPLE PLUS FIVE DIRECTORS ALREADY IN OFFICE BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. THESE ARE MR. BERNARD DELOFFRE (FRANCE), DIRECTOR OF SPACELAB PROGRAMME; PROF. GIANNI FORMICA (ITALY), DIRECTOR OF ESOC; MR. OVE HAMMARSTROM (SWEDEN), DIRECTOR OF ESTEC; DR. WALTER LUKSCH (GERMANY), DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES PROGRAMMES, AND PROF. MASSIMO TRELLA (ITALY), TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.

3. ABOUT 80 MILLION ACCOUNTING UNITS (MAU'S) ARE REQUIRED TO OPERATE KOUROU RANGE BETWEEN NOW AND END 1980. THIS SIX-YEAR PERIOD INCLUDES FOUR YEARS OF VERY LOW LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND TWO YEARS OF ARIANE FLIGHT TESTS IN 1979-80. IT WAS AGREED FRANCE WOULD CONTRIBUTE ABOUT THREE FOURTHS AND OTHER NINE MEMBER COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTE THE BALANCE. THE RANGE WILL REMAIN FRENCH WITH FIRST PRIORITY GIVEN TO ARIANE AND OTHER ESA PROJECTS. SECOND PRIORITY WILL BE ASSIGNED NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. OTHER USES MAY BE ARRANGED BY FRANCE ON A NOT-TO-INTERFERE BASIS. (AN ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED WAS EUROPEANIZATION). A NUMBER OF PRINCIPLES WERE AGREED AND THESE WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR AN INTER-

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GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND AN ESRO/CENTRE NATIONAL D'ETUDES SPATIALES (CNES) PROTOCOL TO BE NEGOTIATED.
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TAGS: TSPA, TGEN, XT
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